(b) Statewise export data are not maintained. However, exports to tobacco have registered an increase of 11.9% in rupee terms (2% in dollar terms) during April-January 1993-94 as compared to the corresponding period in 1992-93.

(c) The Revised Exim Policy 1992-97, *inter alia*, aims at augmenting the productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian agriculture industry and services so as to enhance their export potential and capabilities. It seeks to encourage the attainment of internationally accepted standards of quality and thereby improve the image of India's products abroad.

Set back to Indian Granite Exports

5299. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 318 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th April, 1994 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the imposition of 89 per cent duty on thick slabs and monuments of black granite by Canada has come as a set back to Indian granite industry, particularly in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka; and

(b) if so, whether Government would counter this politicoeconomic move by the Canadian Government and dispel the lack of understanding among the Canadians about the true status of Indian granite industry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Canada has imposed provisional anti-dumping and countervailing duties on imports of black granite memorials and black granite slabs from India.

The investigation is continuing and a final determination is yet to be made by the Canadian authorities. Government is providing necessary permission to the Canadian authorities to clarify the correct factual position.

Sale of Gold by MMTC

5300. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has a proposal to sell 24 carat gold during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the present stock position of gold with MMTC;

(c) whether the gold would be sold in various cities of the country; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for selling gold by MMTC ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Stock position of gold with MMTC is as under :—

(For domestic distribution)

As on 1-4-94	10.34	Kgs.
arrival of gold during April, 1994	20.00	Kgs.
TOTAL :	30.34	Kgs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As a trading Company operating in Gem & Jewellery, MMTC considers this to be a profitable diversification.

Trade ties with South Africa

5301. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 3666 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th April, 1994 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the resumption of trade with South Africa will open up new avenues of trade and joint ventures, leading to a substantial increase in trade and industrial collaboration between the two countries; and

(b) if so, what specific areas of trade will or can be made available for collaboration and what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Specific areas offering prospects/potential for trade and industrial collaboration with South Africa are as follows :—

Trade—Tea, coffee, spices, pickles, cashew, rice, traditional jewellery, textile garments, transport equipment, auto parts, leather goods, computer software, engineering and chemical products etc.

Rock phosphate, phosphoric acid, asbestos, metallic ores and products, pig iron, zinc, newprint, rough diamonds, coalmining technology and certain chemicals.

JOINT VENTURES—Food processing, pig iron, coal mining, liquification of coal, conventional and non-conventional energy sectors.

Foreign and Indian trade delegations

5302. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign trade delegation which visited India during 1993-94 upto 31-3-94 and Indian trade delegations went abroad during the same period;

(b) the MOUs signed country-wise trade-wise indicating the total transaction involved in Rupees/period for which MOUs stood valid; and

(c) which country has made highest investment in India and which country the lowest investment in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) During 1993-94 upto 31-3-94 21 foreign trade delegations visited India and 14 Indian trade delegations went abroad.

(b) No MOU was signed.

(c) Approval for foreign investment has been given for highest investment by USA & lowest investment by Belorussia, Kuwait, New Zealand and Slovakia.

Joint ventures in Guyana

5303. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that President of Guyana has offered to invite Indian businessmen to set up joint venture in this country on his recent visit to India;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to set up a Joint Chamber of Commerce to facilitate the trade between the two countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?